

Disaster News

CALL CENTER FOR RELATIVES OF THE PERISHED

BATON ROUGE, La.—A national toll-free number is available for families whose loved ones may have perished during Hurricane Katrina. Concerned relatives, who are unable to find a missing loved one and fear the worst, should call the Find Family National Call Center at 1-866-326-9393. This is the nationwide collection point and official coordination center for information on persons missing from the storm. Family members can phone this number 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Disaster officials want to remind callers that this number is specifically for those concerned that a loved one may be deceased.

Callers will be asked a series of questions that are solely for the purpose of identifying and reuniting family members. The center respects the privacy of individuals and will treat the information with the utmost care and confidentiality.

The Find Family National Call Center is a joint effort between the State of Louisiana and the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The center includes specialty staff members from the state, mental health professions, and FEMA's National Disaster Medical System and Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team branches.

FEMA prepares the nation for all hazards and manages federal response and recovery efforts following any national incident. FEMA also initiates mitigation activities, trains first responders, works with state and local emergency managers, and manages the National Flood Insurance Program and the U.S. Fire Administration. FEMA became part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security on March 1, 2003.

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